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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Examiner:

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.97(b)(3) & §1.98

RECEIVED TC 1700

SIR:

This information Disclosure Statement is being filed pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.97(b)(3), (i.e., before the mailing of a First Office Action on the merits). The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449. One copy of each reference is attached. Japanese Patent 07-053756 is not attached because it was cited in a previous Information Disclosure Statement filed January 18, 2002. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the reference(s) be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

The references were cited in a European Search Report dated April 2, 2002, a copy of which is also enclosed.

Because this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before mailing of a first Office Action on the merits, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3), it is believed that no fee is due. The Commissioner is, however, hereby authorized to charge any fee believed necessary and to credit any overpayment to Kenyon & Kenyon Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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